

Appl. No.: 10/817,111
Amdt. dated August 8, 2008
Reply to Office Action of June 5, 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed June 5, 2008. In the Office Action, Claims 1-4, 6-13, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,607,338 ("*Parenti*"). Claims 5 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in light of *Parenti* and U.S. Patent No. 4,395,015 ("*Reardon*"). And Claim 18 was objected to for reciting "projecting annular flanges," which the Examiners asserted are not shown in the drawings. In response to the rejections and objection, Claims 1-15 and 18-19 have been canceled, Claim 16 has been amended, and Claims 21-31 have been added. Thus, as a result of this response, Claims 16-17 and 21-31 are pending in the application.

As indicated above, in addition to the rejections, the Examiner objected to "Claims 18 and 19 . . . as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but [the Examiner also noted that these claims] would be allowable if rewritten in independent form" Office Action, page 4. To put the application in condition for allowance, Applicants have rewritten Claims 18 and 19 into independent form as suggested by the Examiner. These claims are now Claims 25 and 16, respectively. To overcome the objection to Claim 18, Applicants have replaced "inwardly projecting annular flanges" with "a rim" as recited in new Claim 25.

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed June 5, 2008. Additionally, the foregoing amendments and remarks are believed to have placed the present application in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney via telephone at (404) 881-4381 or e-mail at dane.baltich@alston.com to resolve any remaining issues to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

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Respectfully submitted,

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